

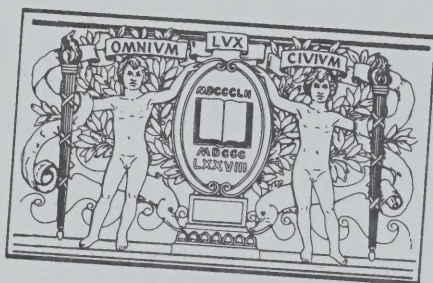
BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY



3 9999 06588 415 5

GOV DOC

A  
m3/B16  
PL  
64/2 ✓



**BOSTON  
PUBLIC  
LIBRARY**











1964  
gov. 90-3668

A  
M3/B16  
PL  
64/2

Boston Public Library

68900085  
GOVERNMENT DOCUMENTS  
DEPARTMENT  
BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

PROPOSAL FOR THE USE  
OF THE PRESENT BUILDING

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS



## Proposal for the Use of the Present Building

### General Observations

#### Space Use in General

- Home Reading Services to take over entire first floor
  - Adults' Services to be given present Newspaper and Periodical Rooms plus Patent Room
  - Children's Services to be given present Open Shelf Department and present Children's Section, with basement space under present Open Shelf Department to be re-made for story-telling and similar uses
- Bates Hall to remain a great reference and reading room for
  - an intermediate level of reference for the general user, students (young adults), and Eastern Massachusetts Regional Library Service users  
minus documents ?
- Bookstack Area to revert to bookstack use entirely except for Stack 2 and Stack 5 along Blagden Street
  - to house the General Library Collection for the use of the general readers from Boston and from the Eastern Massachusetts Regional Library Service area



Only Limited Reconstruction Will Be Required

- to provide a reconciliation of floor levels between the Present Building and the New Building
  - present level of Patent Room floor will have to be lowered 3-4 feet
  - present level of Lecture Hall floor will have to be raised 3-4 feet
- present outside entrance and its stairway to Lecture Hall will be discontinued, inasmuch as Lecture Hall will be moved to new Auditorium in basement of New Building
- present Lecture Hall space will be divided into two levels by a mezzanine floor installation to provide for a long-needed group of meeting rooms
- northwest corner of Present Building at back of Courtyard will be given a public elevator and a new stairway, to be articulated with the floor levels of both the Present Building and the New Building



Incorporation of Subway Entrance into the Library Buildings

- to be inserted into the library buildings in order to remove its present blemish on the face of the Boylston Street side of the building
- to be relocated slightly to the west at the northwest corner of the Present Building, there to be joined with a new separate entrance to the Auditorium, the Meeting Rooms, the Large Exhibition Room, and the Staff Entrance to the combined buildings

Connections from the Present Building to the New Building

- on Boylston Street side
  - on ground floor - by way of the proposed quarters of the Adults' Services
  - on second floor - through the Elliott Room (as an exhibition room) past the meeting rooms in the present Lecture Hall area
  - on third floor - by way of the proposed Rare Book Exhibition Room and the Special Collections Section
- on Blagden Street side
  - from ground floor - by way of the proposed quarters for the Audio Visual Department (Stack 2)
  - from second floor - by way of the proposed quarters for the Headquarters of the Eastern Massachusetts Regional Public Library Service (Stack 5)
  - on third floor - by way of the Wiggin Gallery and the proposed quarters of the Print Department



Boston Public Library

PROPOSAL FOR THE USE  
OF THE PRESENT BUILDING

SPECIFIC SPACE ALLOCATIONS



PROPOSAL FOR THE USE  
OF THE PRESENT BUILDING

STREET FLOOR



## Proposal for the Use of the Present Building

## Street Floor

## Main Entrance Hall

Information Desk &amp; Public Relations Office

## Registration of Borrowers

## Book Charging Desks

Book Return Desk

## Check Room

Public Elevator

Sales Desk - opposite Public Elevator, and at north end of present Open Shelf Dept., utilizing door opening into corridor opposite Public Elevator lobby

Quick Information Dept. - opposite Registration of Borrowers, and at  
south end of present Newspaper Room,  
utilizing door opening into corridor  
opposite Registration of Borrowers



Proposal for the Use of the Present Building

Street Floor

North Wing (Copley Square and Boylston Street)

Central Home Reading Department for Adults

- in northern two thirds of present Newspaper Room
- in present Periodical Rooms\* (space to be opened up)
- in present Patent Room\*\* (space to be opened up)
  
- to be completely open shelves
- space in basement directly below to be available for book storage when and if necessary or desirable
- office space
  - for Chief of Central Home Reading Department
  - for Reader's Advisor for Adults
  
- workroom space
- conference room
  
- as a public service area its internal arrangements to be adapted to permit interior passage from the Present to the New Building on the street floor level

\*adjacent space to be made available by removal of present Lecture Hall staircase and floor there to be reconciled with floor level of present Periodical Rooms

\*\*floor of present Patent Room to be reconciled with floor levels of present Newspaper and Periodical Rooms



Proposal for the Use of the Present Building

Street Floor

South Wing (Copley Square and Blagden Street)

Central Home Reading Department for Children

- in southern two thirds of present Open Shelf Dept.
- in present Children's Section
- space in basement directly below to be developed for allied activities, such as story-telling areas and other allied purposes
- other space in basement directly below to be available for book storage when and if necessary or desirable
- to house current children's literature in present Open Shelf Dept.
- to house the retrospective historical collection of children's literature in present Children's Section.
- office space
  - for Reader's Advisor for Children
- workroom space
- conference room



Proposal for the Use of the Present Building

Street Floor

South Wing (Blagden Street)

Audio Visual Department (on Stack 2 level)

- placed here to have direct connection with the Shipping and Receiving Section in the basement of the New Building
- Office
- Films Section
  - Booking Office
  - Film Pick-Up Area
  - Work & Film Inspection Area
  - Film Storage Area
  - Equipment Storage Area
  - Projection Room (appropriate height to be obtained for its relatively small area by cutting through into Stack 3 immediately above if necessary and desirable)
- Recordings Section
  - Recordings Shelving Area
  - Recordings Work Room
  - Listening Facilities
- as a public service area the internal arrangements are to be disposed to permit interior passage from the Present to the New Building on the street floor level



Proposal for the Use of the Present Building  
Street Floor

South Wing (Blagden Street)

Current Newspaper Room (on Stack 1 level)

- ? - with separate and direct entrance on street level from Blagden Street - to facilitate control of its use
- location of this separate entrance to be determined following study of use of adjacent areas
- control desk
- work area
- emphasis upon reading of papers in chairs rather than at tables
- to be immediately adjacent at its west end to the Newspaper Files on same Stack 1 level on back side of Courtyard



Proposal for the Use of the Present Building

Street Floor

West Wing (at back side of Courtyard)

Newspaper Files (on Stack 1 level)

- bound files
- microfilm files
- control desk
- storage area for microfilm files on Stack 1 level
- storage area for bound files in basement
- tables for reading machines for microfilm files
- tables for consultation of bound volumes
- adjacent at its south end will be the Current Newspaper Room -  
on the same Stack 1 level on the Blagden Street of building
- adjacent on its west side will be its direct connection with the  
New Building (up 2 or 3 steps) to the Periodicals Section  
in the New Building



Proposal for the Use of the Present Building

Street Floor

West Wing (at back side of Courtyard)

Central Bookstock for Branch Libraries,

and Bookmobile Book Stock (on Stack 2 level)

- in space presently occupied by lunchrooms, lounge, locker rooms, etc.
- work space on Courtyard side
- stack space on back wall side
- book collections
  - its current book stock to be enlarged from its present 60,000 volumes to an expanded collection of 100,000-150,000 volumes as a General Library Collection for the B.P.L.'s Home Reading Division and for the Eastern Massachusetts Regional Public Library Service
  - this book collection to occupy all of the bookstack in the Present Building except the few areas allocated for other uses (such as Audio Visual and Newspapers or any other uses to be determined)
- to be located at this point in order to have direct connection with the Shipping and Receiving Section in the basement of the New Building and its off-street loading platform
- from this Stack 2 level of the Present Building there will be direct connection (either up or down 2 or 3 steps) with the immediately adjacent book processing departments (book selection, book purchasing, book preparation, cataloging and classification) in the southeast part of the New Building.



Proposal for the Use of the Present Building

Street Floor

Courtyard

Northwest Corner

- to have new stairway and new public elevator going all the way from basement to top floor
- to provide uniform and easy access to the three main floors of both the Present and the New Buildings
- to provide access from within the Present Building to all meeting rooms
  - (a) to the Auditorium in the basement of the New Building
  - (b) to the proposed Meeting Rooms in the Present Building in present Lecture Hall area (both on its main floor and on a mezzanine level directly above)

Friends of the Library Headquarters

- a Members' Room
  - in present area with its own entrance, utilizing the present separate door at the backside of Courtyard
  - with its own lavatory facilities, utilizing the present facilities at that location
  - with elevator and stairway access to the immediately adjacent Auditorium and Meeting Rooms, both of the latter to have kitchenette facilities for refreshments for those occasions when desirable

Courtyard Libraries

- to remain in present location



- 14 -

PROPOSAL FOR THE USE  
OF THE PRESENT BUILDING

SECOND FLOOR



Proposal for the Use of the Present Building

Second Floor

The General Library Collection

- the collection to be

- (1) a general collection of books appropriate to the central library collection of the usual large public library
- (2) the general library collection, as contrasted with the extensive B.P.L. collections for reference and research in depth
- (3) a lending collection in its entirety (except for its periodical files and such reference materials as may have to be kept on reserve)

- the collection to serve primarily

- (1) the general users of the B.P.L. Home Reading Division's facilities
- (2) the general users of the Eastern Massachusetts Regional Public Library Service
- (3) the high school, college, and similar users in need of library materials other than at advanced reference and research levels

- the collection to be a collection of 100,000 to 150,000 volumes to be formed from

- (1) the present 60,000 volumes of the Central Bookstock for the Branch Libraries (the former Branch Issue Department)
- (2) the book collections to be developed with the passing of time as part of the Eastern Massachusetts Regional Public Library Service

- the collection to be housed

- (1) by reverting all of the bookstack area of the Present Building to its original bookstack use
- (2) this can be done with the minor exceptions of Stack 1 and Stack 2 along Blagden Street

- Stack 1 - to house Current Newspaper Room
- Stack 2 - to house Audio Visual Department



- the collection to be arranged insofar as possible by groups such as

- (1) an arts section
- (2) an humanities section
- (3) a social sciences section
- (4) a science and technology section

- the collection to be serviced

- (1) by self-service, with open access for browsing purposes,  
if this can be achieved by adequate controls
- (2) and/or by delivery service otherwise by the book conveyor  
from the bookstack to the delivery point at Bates Hall

- the collection to be administered

- (1) by the B.P.L. Division of Home Reading and Community Services
- (2) in representation of
  - (a) the B.P.L.'s own general reader services
  - (b) the Eastern Massachusetts Regional Public Library  
Service



Proposal for the Use of the Present Building

Second Floor

General Reading Room (Bates Hall)

- to be available for such use in its entirety
- with the General Reference Department to be re-located in the central portion of Bates Hall - won't it be better to have it in the center?
- to house a general collection of standard reference books
- with individual desks of the carrel type in place of the large tables  
Why? I don't see why.

General Reference Desk (in central section of Bates Hall)

- present Bates Hall Center Desk to be discontinued
- new General Reference Desk (similar to present one in the Abbey Room) to be located against outer wall of Bates Hall in the general location of the platform desk of the Custodian of Bates Hall in earlier years and opposite to the entrance to Bates Hall from the Chavannes Gallery
- Public Card Catalog for the General Library Collection to be located in space in front of and between new General Reference Desk and the entrance to Bates Hall from the Chavannes Gallery
  - the card catalog for a collection of only 100,000 to 150,000 volumes will require considerably less space than will be actually available in this location (Are there any other uses for this space?)
- this area for the General Reference Desk and the Public Catalog to be separated from rest of Bates Hall by a partition with glass top on each side, with openings for passage in and out to the north and to the south
- this General Reference Desk to be to a lesser degree a counterpart to the present General Reference Department of the Reference Division, which latter, however, will be newly located in the New Building in the quarters of the Division of Reference and Research Services



Delivery of Books to Bates Hall from Bookstack

- a delivery point to be established in space bounded by
  - west wall of Bates Hall
  - north wall of Pompeian Alcove
  - east wall of Chavannes Gallery
  - north end of stairway from entresol up to Bates Hall main entrance

and above

the stairway from entresol to Bates Hall main entrance

- terminus of book conveyor to be re-arranged at this point
- openings for the delivery of books to be provided in bay of west wall of Bates Hall (in place of bookcases), with annunciator located immediately above

Present Education Department (to the north off the Chavannes Gallery)

- to be used for informal reading room purposes
- with informal furniture

Abbey Room and Elliott Room

- to revert to be ranking show places in a very beautiful building
- to be provided with exhibition cases



Proposal for the Use of the Present Building

Second Floor

Eastern Massachusetts Regional Public Library Service

- Headquarters Offices to be located in present quarters of the Director's Office off the Abbey Room and on Stack 5
- offices for the Regional Administrator and the Deputy Regional Administrators and their staffs
- conference rooms to be available in mezzanine area under Abbey Room

Connection to Second Floor of New Building

- this to be through Stack 5 as at present

N.B.

For the Eastern Massachusetts Regional Public Library Service there will be two important service points elsewhere as follows:

(1) Telephone Reference Service from other libraries or from individuals

- to be located in the New Building immediately adjacent to General Reference, Bibliographical Reference, and the Union Catalogs of the B.P.L. system and the Eastern Regional Library system
- to be behind the scenes, and not in a public area

(2) Inter-Library Loan Office

- to be in the New Building immediately adjacent to the Telephone Reference Service, the Central Bookstock Office in Stack 2, and the Shipping and Receiving Section directly below



Proposal for the Use of the Present Building

Second Floor

Elliott Room (on Boylston Street side)

- to serve as one of the show places of the building
  - with its ceiling decorations by John Elliott
  - with its ornamental bookcases
- to permit passage from front of Present Building to New Building via the Elliott Room and the present Lecture Hall area

Lecture Hall (on Boylston Street side)

- to be discontinued and replaced by an improved Auditorium of similar size in the below-ground levels of the New Building
- to have its floor level raised to reconcile it with levels of second floors in both the Present and the New Buildings
- separate entrance and stairway to be discontinued and dismantled
- to have a mezzanine floor installed
- the resulting main floor level and the mezzanine level to be arranged into meeting rooms and conference rooms of diverse sizes
- the resulting complex of meeting rooms (Auditorium at northeast corner of the below-ground levels of the New Building and the smaller Meeting Rooms in the present Lecture Hall space) to be serviced by the new stairway and the new elevator in the northwest corner of the Courtyard area
- this complex of meeting rooms to have a centralized provision of kitchenettes or other appropriate serving facilities
- the whole complex of meeting rooms to be a memorial to and bear the name of Samuel Abbott Green

# Journal of the

1880

Journal of the

Journal of the

Journal of the

Journal of the

Journal of the

Journal of the

Journal of the

Journal of the

Journal of the

Journal of the

Journal of the

Journal of the

Journal of the

PROPOSAL FOR THE USE  
OF THE PRESENT BUILDING

THIRD FLOOR



Proposal for the Use of the Present Building

Third Floor

Sargent Gallery

- to remain as is, with as adequate lighting as can be achieved
- to continue to be provided with exhibition cases

Wiggin Gallery (part of Print Department)

- to continue to serve for current exhibitions of prints
- to house dioramas in its small gallery

Print Department (along entire south side of Courtyard, in place of  
Fine Arts & Science and Technology Depts. as at  
present)

- to serve as reading room and study area along the window side
- to house books and prints in the alcoves
- at its west end to be in direct connection to the top floor of the New Building, where there will be located both the Fine Arts Department and the Picture Collection, with which the Print Department needs to be in close relationship
- incidentally this will also permit connection between the top floors of the Present Building and the New Building along the Blagden Street wing
- to have appropriate office space
- to have space for the assembling of exhibits
- to have a print-making studio of its own



Proposal for the Use of the Present Building

Third Floor

Rare Book Department (along Boylston Street and Back of Courtyard)

- to be recognized as having two main parts
  - (1) the Rare Books section as such
  - (2) a Special Collections section, for collections that must be maintained as such even though not all or even a sizeable portion of the collections may be rare books

The Rare Books Section to be a closed area with high security housing

- to be located along the back side of the Courtyard, with reading room and study areas on the window side and bookshelves in the alcove areas on the wall side
- appropriate vaults and other security housing to be provided
- air-conditioning, humidification, lighting and light control, shelving, and other facilities to be provided on an appropriate special basis for rare books quite in addition to any other provision for air-conditioning and facilities normal to the rest of the building
- the entrance to the Rare Books Section (both for the public and the library staff) to be at the north end of the Rare Books Section, adjacent to the new staircase and new public elevator at the northwest corner of the Courtyard, and thus also at the point of connection for the public for both the Present and the New Buildings
- the entrance to the Rare Book Department to be placed intentionally at this point, in order that it, in its location at the top of the Present Building and immediately adjacent to the New Building, can be in direct relationship with the departmental units of the Division of Reference and Research Services which as a group will be located on the top, the second, and the first floors of the New Building
- special facilities to be provided for use of microforms, manuscripts, items in book form requiring special care in handling, individual work tables or carrels, typing and transcription rooms, etc.
- office and conference room for Keeper of Rare Books



The Special Collections Section to be primarily an area for housing special collections that have to be or ought to be kept intact as such, even though not composed of rare books for the most part -- the rare books portion of any special collection to be housed instead in the high-security specially-conditioned quarters of the Rare Books Section

- to be located along the Boylston Street side of the Courtyard
- to be housed in the alcoves along the wall side, with appropriate signs indicating the name of the collection and the name of its founder or donor, the alcoves to be appropriately locked and provided with glass fronts if desirable
  - one or two alcoves to be left purposely unoccupied as "come-on" for potential future donors, if desirable
- to be administered and serviced by the Rare Book Section
- to be an area open to public access, with exhibit cases provided for changing displays of items from the special collections in rotation
- to serve also as a passageway from the Present Building into the New Building, with access to it to be from the Sargent Gallery and the Rare Books Exhibit Room (to be established in the present Music Department space) and from the top floor of the New Building

The Treasure Room (off the Sargent Gallery)

- use to be determined
  - e.g., for the housing of a special collection, such as the President John Adams Library(?)

A New Exhibit Room for the Rare Book Department

- to be established in the present Music Department space



PROPOSAL FOR THE USE  
OF THE PRESENT BUILDING

BASEMENT



Proposal for the Use of the Present Building

Basement

To be discontinued for all bibliothecal uses except storage where and  
when necessary

- (1) seasonal book storage for children's and adult books  
under their appropriate areas
- (2) newspaper storage under and adjacent to the Newspaper  
Files section

Other storage

- (1) exhibits storage
- (2) furniture storage

Public toilets

-- to remain in present location under Main Entrance Hall area

Mechanical equipment

- ventilating ducts
- air conditioning ducts
- book conveyor apparatus

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

CHICAGO, ILL.

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO PRESS

1911

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO PRESS

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO PRESS

CHICAGO, ILL.

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO PRESS

CHICAGO, ILL.

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO PRESS











